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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/614,772	07/12/2000	Masaaki Tanizaki	500.38695X00	2414
24956	7590	07/13/2005	EXAMINER	
MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C. 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 370 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			TRAN, QUOC A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/614,772

Applicant(s)

TANIZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Quoc A. Tran

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 & 6-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to RCE filed 06/14/2005 and Amendment filed 05/16/2005.
2. Claims 1-4, 6-21 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 and 14 are independent claims. Applicant cancelled claim 5.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/14/2005 and 05/16/2005 have been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-4 and 6-21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strasnick et al. US005528735A - filed 03/23/1993 (hereinafter Strasnick), in view of Kothuri et al US006381605B1 - filed 05/29/1999 (hereinafter Kothuri).

In regard to independent claim 1, generating a relationship between an object of the server and an object of the application based on the server definition data, the application definition data, the object property structure data and thesaurus data (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30, discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base, also Strasnick at col. 20, lines 25-30, discloses a method wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application), **graphically indicating the generated relationship between said object of the server and said object of the application on a display** (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30, discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base, also Strasnick at col. 20, lines 25-30, discloses a method wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application), **displaying the object property structure data of an object pointed to by indication means on the display** (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65, discloses a method and

apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape to include a meant of presenting user interface/peripherals such as mouse, key board, display adapter with a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space), **and modifying and deciding the relationship between the objects based on a confirmation operation input from the indication means** (Strasnick at col. 2, lines 15-30, discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree; and adjusting a displayed object's related to object's depth in the hierarchical tree wherein the objects represent files and directories in a data base, also Strasnick at col. 20, lines 25-30, discloses a method wherein a user establishes a connection with a corporate database server to obtain data, utilizing organization's tool such as data dictionaries and utilizing a graphical query tool performs the necessary queries and operations to retrieve the required data components from the database and loads them into specified columns in spreadsheet application),

Strasnick does not explicitly teach, **displaying object hierarchical structure data of the server, and object hierarchical structure data of the application, with the generated relationship**, however (Kothuri at col. 5, lines 20-45, discloses a system and method for indexing and storing multi-dimensional or multi-attribute data, wherein organizing object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server. In particular, methods and

apparatus are provided for indexing multi-dimensional data items in a hierarchical index, storing the index in a database, and performing various operations on the index and/or data items, which is read in the broadest reasonable interpretation as claimed, wherein object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server provided for indexing multi-dimensional data items in a hierarchical index, storing the index in a database is suggested reasonably equivalent to object hierarchical structure data of the server...with the generated relationship as claimed), **acquiring server object property structure data which corresponds to the server and application object property structure data which corresponds to the application**, however (Kothuri at col. 5, lines 20-45, discloses a system and method for indexing and storing multi-dimensional or multi-attribute data, wherein organizing object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server. In particular, methods and apparatus are provided for indexing multi-dimensional data items in a hierarchical index, storing the index in a database, and performing various operations on the index and/or data items and may be used to efficiently store, organize, manipulate and retrieve data for applications in the areas of geographical information systems (GIS), computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM), data warehousing, multi-media, etc. Various types of multi-dimensional data, such as geometrical, geographical, rectangular (e.g., elements of a CAD/CAM project), and data possessing multiple attributes may be point data or non-point data (e.g., spatial in nature), which is read in the broadest reasonable interpretation as claimed, wherein object-relational database management system, such as Oracle Server provided for indexing multi-dimensional data items and performing various operations on the index and/or data items and may be used to efficiently store, organize, manipulate and retrieve data for applications in the areas of geographical

information systems (GIS) is suggested reasonably equivalent to object hierarchical structure data of the server...with the generated relationship as claimed).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teaching of Bergman provides a method and apparatus for displaying an object in a three-dimensional graphic landscape wherein a plurality of objects representing a hierarchical tree, to include a means of indexing and storing multi-dimensional, organizing object-relational database management system of Kothuri. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification to provide a system that would prevented the lack of a unified of the multiple modalities/multiple fidelities nature of multimedia content, both spatial and temporal characteristics among multiple objects; and the lack of a means for describing both streams and aggregations of multimedia objects (as taught by Kothuri at col. 1, lines 5-40).

In regard to independent claim 14, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and is similarly rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 2, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and further view of the following and is similarly rejected along the same rationale, **the form of display is changed depending on the type of a parent/child relationship between objects** (Strasnick col. 4, lines 30-33, discloses lines between the cells. Connectors represent the contextual relationships between cells, for example, parents and children).

In regard to dependent claim 3, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as

cited in claim 1 above, and further view of the following and is similarly rejected along the same rationale, **an object of the lowermost layer and an object of an intermediate layer are distinctively displayed** (Strasnick at col. 11, lines 43-45, discloses nodes which are laid out recursively for each level of a partial hierarchy beginning at the bottommost end level of the partial hierarchy).

In regard to dependent claim 4, displaying a relationship between the objects, a similarity between the objects is displayed in a form reflected by types of lines or thickness of lines (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65, discloses a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space).

In regard to dependent claim 6, relationship between the objects is displayed in order of a degree of certainty representing a height of a degree of association between the objects (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65, discloses a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space).

In regard to dependent claim 7, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as

cited in claim 1 above, and further view of the following and is similarly rejected along the same rationale, the object hierarchical structure and/or the relationship between objects are displayed with distinction for each view selected by a user (Strasnick at col. 5, lines 20-65, discloses a FSN (File System Navigator) wherein the FSN, the topology is a hierarchical modeling of a data file directory. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, cells 120 are displayed as 3D square pedestals representing directories in which the height or color of a pedestal represents the aggregate size of the files contained within the directory represented by the cell and also to represent the parent-child relationship between data objects appearing in display space).

In regard to dependent claims 8-13, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 1 above, and are similarly rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claims 15-19, are directed to a system for performing the method of claim 1, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 20, is directed to a system for performing the method of claim 4, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 21, is directed to a system for performing the method of claim 7, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4103. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 11AM to 7PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Herndon R. Heather can be reached on (571) -272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Quoc A, Tran
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2176
July 10, 2005

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
7/10/2005